

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

Convention session No. 157: A second look

Baptists from all over the state came together, discussed the issues, cast their votes, and now we will abide by it. The convention, as usual, furnished excellent fellowship. Perhaps it is not as vital as it was 50 years ago. Mobility and rapid communication have brought us within hours or minutes of one another. Still, it is vital to our working together.

There were high moments of inspiration. The music was superb and the Bible Treasures will be treasured for a long time. Sonny Adkins' preaching and the Forest choir were right on target; and Milton Valentine had the William Carey Choir in shape for some serious singing. Charles Q. Carter and Adrian Rogers had prepared well, and spoke with authority.

Information, essential to any good convention, was distributed in generous portions. Tell Baptists the truth and the whole story and they can make intelligent decisions on any issue. The executive director, Bill Causey, made plain his interest, concern, and willingness to exert every ounce of his being for Mississippi Baptists and in winning this state and nation to Christ.

No one, I'm sure, had his desires

met in every decision. We live in a real world, and this seldom happens. However, things were done decently and in order and the will of the Convention was expressed. Now we return to our task, having been heard, having expressed our views, and now willing to abide by the will of the body.

There are some big issues out there. We have a mission in our state, nation, and world and we are determined to support mission activities. The morality of our society has slipped to a record low. If Christians don't speak out, who will? Nearly half of our population is without Jesus. If we do not tell them, who will? "Teaching them to observe all things," discipleship is desperately needed. If we do not do this, who will?

Education is expensive, especially Christian education. It is even more expensive not to have it. Baptists will continue to support it in our state.

For a number of years the Baptist Record has received a subsidy from the Cooperative Program. Increasing costs of printing and high postage rates would account for most of the subsidy. Several times in the past the paper has

made money and this surplus was returned to the Convention. Hundreds of newspapers and magazines have declared bankruptcy, or merged in the last few years and the news-road has been rocky.

The Baptist Record is the journal of the Convention. The Convention has absorbed the deficits and accepted the profits in years past. Unless there is a drastic change there will be no profits in the near future and a subsidy will be necessary. The Baptist Record's advisory committee may recommend a small increase in subscription and advertising rates. Even so, a subsidy will still be needed. Most state papers receive subsidies ranging from 20% to 100% of their operating costs.

Whatever the Convention decides in the future, I hope the Baptist Record will be judged on its own merits, not in comparison with mission giving nor our Children's Village. The activities of the Children's Village and our mission program will need some way to get the news out to the Baptists across the state. The Baptist Record remains a strong ally to our total mission program, including the Children's Village.



Faith of a grain of mustard seed

Under a huge banner declaring, "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it" (Psalm 127), the Mustard Seed banquet was held. The Mustard Seed, Inc., is a home for mentally handicapped adults. Prominent state people are on the board of trustees, the executive committee, and the staff.

What would we do without volunteers? Stephanie Strickland, local TV personality, was Mistress of Ceremonies. Matt Moseler, another TV personality, and the "Revelations" quartet afforded the music. Bo Bowens of Ole Miss football fame declared there were many exciting moments at Ole Miss but the best thing was coming to know Christ as Savior. Cindy Lucas offered words of encouragement and hope.

The real stars, however, were the residents of the Mustard Seed. They were introduced as Will, Patsy, Debbie, Sharon, Mary Ellen, Michelle, plus others — all special children gifted by the Mas-

ter. Their musical group, the "Bells of Faith" performed under the direction of two professionals, Deborah Burnham and Jennifer Clark. Both are graduates in music therapy at William Carey College and expressed their love and concern with quality music. You could sense the hours of hard work behind every note. The Bells of Faith have rung in small and large churches including First, Jackson; Calvary, Jackson; Forest; First, Hattiesburg; and in many other churches, colleges, and civic groups. The ringers were serious and solemn with every eye on Deborah as she directed.

Ruby Bryant of Calvary Church, Jackson, was correct in her introduction, "I call it a miracle." Tears spilled over at the display of so much love, trust, and concern. Small wonder it was followed by a standing ovation from the crowd. Thanksgiving came early and the verse lingered long on our minds: "Except the Lord build the house...." — GH

Former trustee chairmen Corts, Hancock answer Parks' charges

William Hancock, trustee chairman of the Foreign Mission Board, 1990-92, and C. Mark Corts, chairman, 1988-90, have answered Keith Parks, former FMB president, on charges Parks made upon his retirement.

The answer was prompted by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's appeal to over 700 churches to send their Christmas mission offering (Lottie Moon) through CBF. Moreover, they charged that Park's statements could drastically hinder the Cooperative Program.

They expressed no ill will toward Parks and "our respect for you and our gratitude for your outstanding leadership remain undiminished." They denied that decisions by the trustees were increasingly shaped by ultra-conservative theological interpretations, rather than tested and adopted mission principles. Most of the "theological interpreta-

tions" came from the FMB staff, not the trustees.

The trustees' desire to move quickly into Eastern Europe as doors were opening arose out of their deep desire to carry out the Great Commission, they said. It was not "shaped by ultra-conservative theological interpretation."

Parks was also urged by the trustees to "build bridges with the conservative leadership and to seek to break down the suspicion and distrust by listening to each other." Apparently Parks did not take advantage of this, resulting in an atmosphere of distrust, criticism, and intimidation.

The growth of the volunteer movement was ignited by Parks, who called for an increase in lay mission involvement. Parks was later alarmed that career missionary emphasis was being hampered by the lay volunteer movement. "It seems incongruous now," said Hancock and Corts,

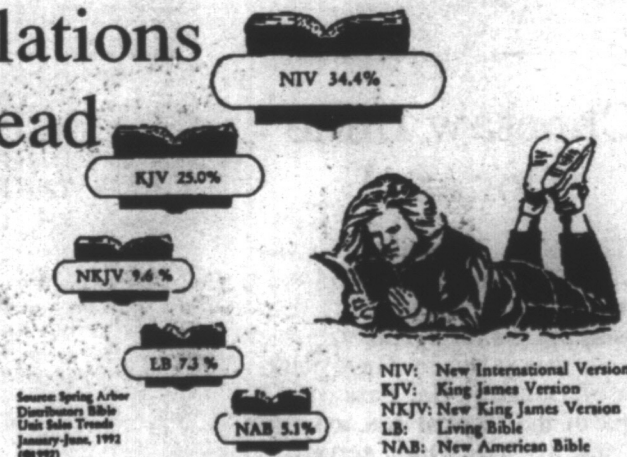
"to fault the current trustees for an 'increased' emphasis on volunteers."

They claimed to be "bewildered" by the charge that "prospective staff members are being asked for 'expressions of loyalty toward... the conservative resurgence.'"

The two former trustee chairmen said, "we have been unable to find one example that a prospective staff member was asked such a question." Also, "charges that trustees seek to do staff work instead of fulfilling the work of trustees may at times be a valid charge but it is a minor matter that requires adjustment any time there is a large influx of new trustees."

They declared that "this Board continues to appoint individuals not churches, and this Board continues to serve all Baptists and to appoint all who meet the stated qualifications."

Bible Translations We Read



Observe National Bible Week, Nov. 22-29

The Baptist Record

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Parks meets with CBF group to explore leadership post

By Art Toalston

NASHVILLE (BP) — Retired Southern Baptist foreign missions leader R. Keith Parks met with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's Global Mission Ministry Group Nov. 19-20 as part of his decision-making process on accepting a top CBF leadership position.

"I came to be exposed to the group," Parks told Baptist Press during a break in the meeting, "to see where they're going and make

some comments where I think they should be going, (to list) some priorities I would be interested in if I was involved with them."

Parks was formally offered the job of CBF coordinator of global missions by the moderate group's Coordinating Council last September.

Now, Parks said, "We'll take this home and process it and come to a decision in the fairly near

future, yea or nay."

In his counsel to the CBF missions arm, Parks said he believes it would be a mistake for it to try to become "a miniature FMB," referring to the Southern Baptist Convention Foreign Mission Board he headed from 1980 until his retirement Oct. 31.

He said the CBF should "chart its own course" and "define a distinctive niche," such as missions

efforts in "World A," the population belt of mission-neglected people from the Middle East through Asia; the millions of refugees worldwide; and outreach in key urban areas where few others are ministering.

He said the CBF should challenge young people to "a sacrificial lifestyle" and not necessarily pay its workers at the level of FMB missionaries.

Parks confirmed he has agreed to be a keynote speaker during the CBF May 13-15, 1993, assembly in Birmingham, Ala.

Parks' wife, Helen Jean, attended the CBF Global Mission Ministry Group meeting with him in Nashville's Scarritt-Bennett Center retreat facility near Vanderbilt University.

Toalston is news director, Baptist Press.

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, November 26, 1992

Published Since 1877

Tornadoes spur Baptist action; churches damaged during storm

By William H. Perkins Jr.

The Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Unit was activated Nov. 22 after a tragic midnight storm swept through the state, spawning tornadoes that killed 15 people and destroyed scores of homes across Mississippi. A number of Baptist churches were also caught in the middle of the fast-moving weather front.

"The state disaster relief unit was activated at 2:30 a.m. on Nov. 22. The state feeding unit was set up at First Church, Brandon, and by noon that day, 400 meals had been served. Another 600 were served that night," said Paul Harrell, director of the Brotherhood Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, which oversees management of the disaster relief unit.

Harrell also reported that additional Baptist disaster relief units and churches from around the state were responding to other hard-hit areas.

The Clarke Association unit was dispatched to Weir in Choctaw County to supply meals, and First Church, Ackerman, also responded to needs in that community. First Church, Mount Olive, supplied shelter and food to area storm victims, while Bay Springs Church, Bay Springs, offered shelter and food to victims in the Sylvaena community of Smith County. Dublin Church in Jefferson Davis County assisted people in that area, according to Harrell.

Baptist disaster relief units specializing in cleanup and recovery were activated from Pike, Lamar, Calhoun, and Montgomery associations, he added.

"A total of 225 volunteers were coordinated through the state disaster relief unit," Harrell said.

The state feeding unit in Brandon will continue operations at least through the Thanksgiving holiday, he added.

Several Baptist churches and

church facilities also suffered the wrath of the storm. The pastor's home at New Zion Church in Choctaw County was hit, and Clear Springs Church in Choctaw County received extensive damage. In the Sylvaena community of Smith County, Sylvaena Church sustained damage to the church building, activities building, and pastor's home. New Hope Church in Attala County was heavily damaged, and Phalti Church in Jefferson Davis County was also in the path of the storm.

Jim Didlake, a consultant in the Mississippi Brotherhood Department and 12-year member of the Baptist disaster relief team, found this disaster more personal than others he has worked.

The tornado skirted Didlake's neighborhood and damaged several nearby homes. He was forced to round up his family and take shelter in the hallway of his house.

"This is the first time I've found myself in the disaster. We were among the lucky ones; we came out okay," he said.

Meteorologists have classified the tornado that struck Rankin County as an "F-4" on the Fujita-Pearson Scale, which means the tornado had wind speeds of up to 260 miles per hour. The widely-accepted scale has only one category higher than the Rankin County tornado.

Preliminary estimates indicate the tornado was on the ground for about 50 miles, traveling at speeds up to 45 miles per hour.

The wide-ranging storm's toll in almost a dozen states has exceeded 20 deaths.

Persons and organizations who want to volunteer their time, donate resources, or contribute in other ways to the cleanup and recovery effort in the state can contact the Brotherhood Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800.

Total revenue up at BSSB; Draper praises employees

By Charles Willis

NASHVILLE (BP) — Total revenue for the Sunday School Board's fiscal year ending Sept. 30 was up \$5.75 million from 1990-91, employees of the church programs and publishing agency were told Nov. 17 in an employee assembly.

President James T. Draper Jr., speaking to a packed audience of Nashville-based personnel, said while revenues were \$1.5 million short of a goal of \$203,877,000, product sales, "an area where employees have direct influence over results, exceeded target by \$1.5 million."

The board, which receives no funds from the Cooperative Pro-

gram, made direct contributions to SBC support of \$3,011,000, including \$649,000 to the SBC and \$2,362,000 to state Baptist conventions.

"I am very, very optimistic about our future," Draper observed. "These last months have been difficult for all of us. The departure of 159 co-workers has been a shock to this institution and to our networks of relationships. It's changed things; it's created some anxiety. It's also given many of you new assignments, many of you are learning new jobs and others feel like you are still in limbo."

Willis writes for BSSB.



Renewing friendships

Paul Jones (left), executive director of the Christian Action Commission of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, greets friends in the exhibit hall of the 157th session of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, held Nov. 10-11 at First Church, Jackson. Among those in town for the convention were (from left, after Jones) Bill Smith, Lee County director of missions; Roger Dorsett, Tishomingo County director of missions; James Ray, pastor of Bunker Hill Church, Columbia; and Archie Herrin, director of missions for Lawrence, Marion, and Walthall counties. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

Word Inc. files countersuit against Maranatha! Music

WACO, Texas (EP) — Word Inc. has responded to a lawsuit brought by Maranatha! Music with an eight-count countersuit. The dispute between the two Christian music companies involves a distribution agreement between the companies which has since been terminated.

Word's countersuit denies most of the allegations and charges brought by Maranatha! Music.

In addition to standard defenses, Word claims that Maranatha failed to properly account to Word for Maranatha's use of more than \$1.25 million ad-

vanced to Maranatha for advertising and promotion. Word also claims that Maranatha demanded that Word "infuse capital into Maranatha" in an unreasonable and unacceptable way, as a "pretext for terminating negotiations on the new distribution agreement."

The Word countersuit also charges Maranatha with misrepresentation, fraud, breach of contract, and usury. The last charge stems from the amount of interest Maranatha is seeking on the \$2.7 million in royalties it claims it is owed by Word.



Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers rush to complete start-up procedures for the state feeding unit on location at First Church, Brandon, after a tornado killed 10 people and destroyed scores of homes around Rankin County in the early morning hours of Nov. 22. The unit rolled shortly after the storm struck and served over 1,000 meals by the end of the day. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

OTHER STATE CONVENTIONS...

FLORIDA BAPTISTS ELECT LAYMAN

FORT MYERS, Fla. (BP) — For the first time in 12 years, a layman has been elected president of the Florida Baptist Convention. Tim Locher of Hollywood, a pilot for Delta Airlines, received 55% of the vote, 594 votes, to 485 votes for the only other nominee, Darrell Oman, pastor of First Church of Stuart. Locher has served for four years on the convention's board of missions and was vice chairman this past year. In other actions, the 1,618 messengers passed a resolution promising to pray daily for fellow Southern Baptist President-elect Bill Clinton and asking him to renounce his "stated intentions to promote abortion on demand and minority status for homosexuals."

MARYLAND/DELAWARE BAPTISTS SEEK UNITY

SILVER SPRING, Md. (BP) — Maryland/Delaware Baptists responded to pleas for reconciliation between Christians but exercised sharp disagreement over contested issues at their two-state convention's annual meeting Nov. 9-10. Registration reached a record 987 messengers at the 157th session of the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware. The 18-year-old, 2,000-member First Korean Church of Silver Spring, Md., the BCM/D's largest worshipping congregation, hosted the convention for the first time. The convention elected a new president by 65 votes. Long-time Delaware pastor Otis Doherty of Olgetown Church in Newark received 421 votes — 54.2% of the total cast — to 356 for Howard Edmonson, pastor of Mason-Dixon Church, an affiliated church in New Freedom, Pa. Doherty had received the support of Maryland/Delaware moderates while Edmonson was backed by conservatives.

NEVADA MAINTAINS 25 PERCENT MARK FOR CP

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (BP) — Messengers to the 14th annual meeting of the Nevada Baptist Fellowship approved a \$1.7 million budget, maintaining a 25% allocation to Southern Baptist national and international missions and ministry supported by the Cooperative Program. The 1993 budget is roughly equal to the 1992 budget and includes a 3.5% salary increase for the 11-member staff at the Nevada convention's headquarters in Reno.

MINNESOTA-WISCONSIN HONORS WINNINGHAM

ROCHESTER, Minn. (BP) — Minnesota-Wisconsin Southern Baptists honored their retiring executive director, Otha Winningham, at a banquet during the two-state convention's annual meeting Oct. 29-31 at Rochester's Emmanuel Church. A 1993 budget of \$1,711,305 was adopted, a 1.25% increase over 1992. Of this, 26% is again earmarked for national Southern Baptist Convention causes.

DAKOTAS OPPOSE GAMBLING, ABORTION; BOOST CP

RAPID CITY, S.D. (BP) — Resolutions opposing gambling and abortion on demand were adopted by the Dakota Baptist Convention during its Oct. 22-24 annual meeting at Rapid City's Calvary Church. Messengers also increased the two-state convention's giving to Southern Baptist national and international missions and ministries funded by the Cooperative Program by one-half percent — to 14.5% of their 1993 budget of \$810,825. The 1993 budget is a 3% increase above the convention's 1992 budget.

TEXAS BAPTISTS REJECT BJC, BAYLOR DEFUNDING

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas (BP) — Messengers to the Baptist General Convention of Texas decisively rejected attempts to defund Baylor University and the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and overwhelmingly adopted a \$63.5 million basic Cooperative Program unified budget for 1993. Also they re-elected Dick Maples, pastor of First Church of Bryan, to a traditional, second one-year term as convention president. Billy Sluder, pastor of First Church of Cotulla, Texas, introduced the motion to amend the budget to delete the \$4 million Cooperative Program allocation for Baylor University and divide the funds equally among the other seven Texas Baptist universities. "Texas Baptists are a family," Maples insisted. While acknowledging there are deep differences of opinion within Texas Baptist ranks on some issues — including continuing funding for Baylor University — he said there is "no breach that cannot be bridged." BGCT presidents traditionally are granted a second term without opposition, and Maples said he was "surprised" when it was announced San Antonio evangelist Rudy Hernandez was allowing himself to be nominated. Maples won his second term by a 4,326-1,572 vote. However, Maples insisted the decision by Hernandez — who was backed by the Texas Baptist Conservative Fellowship — was "perfectly all right" and would not effect their longstanding friendship. Asked if he supported a recently announced plan by Southern Baptist Convention President Ed Young to name committees to study and seek solutions to areas of disagreement within the SBC, Maples said he considered it a "step to healing" he applauded. When pressed, Maples added Young, pastor of Houston's Second Church, could begin the healing by being inclusive in his own presidential appointments. Messengers rejected proposed constitutional changes regarding a \$50,000 salary cap for new convention employees and a prohibition on persons from churches significantly contributing to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship serving on state convention boards. Messengers also rejected a motion by Billy C. Collins, pastor of Hurlwood Church of Lubbock, that no people be appointed to any BGCT board "if they are from a church which gives more than 75% of their money to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship."

Letters to the editor



A new plan

Editor:

I enjoy receiving the Baptist Record. The features help me stay aware of all aspects of our life as Southern Baptists. However, I do not believe that Mississippi Baptists can't afford a five dollar per year increase in the subscription rate. I believe, contrary to the Convention's actions, the grass-roots church member supports missions and helping hurting children above lining our pockets with a \$540,320 subsidy.

Therefore, I urge every subscriber to the Baptist Record to make a one-time, five dollar donation to the Baptist Children's Village. Together, we can give over \$500,000 to our kids — five dollars at a time, and send a clear message to the Convention Board to cut out the subsidy in next year's budget.

Keith Powell, pastor
Hebron Church
Grenada

Keep up good work

Editor:

When I read your Editor's Notebook and hear you speak for the cause of Christ, I am remind-

Chapman
says integrity
calls CBF to
leave SBC

By Art Toalston

MOORE, Okla. (BP) — As a matter of integrity, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship should separate itself from the Southern Baptist Convention, said SBC Executive Committee President Morris H. Chapman Nov. 11.

"Their greatest integrity," Chapman said of the CBF, "would be openly declaring they no longer are cooperating Southern Baptists, rather than claiming to be Southern Baptists and trying to draw funds from good-hearted, grass-roots Southern Baptists."

Chapman made the comment during an interview with The Daily Oklahoman of Oklahoma City.

In a statement to Baptist Press Nov. 13, Chapman said: "It must be understood there is a difference between being a moderate and being a member of the CBF. Not all moderates in the SBC are members of the CBF. In fact, many moderates are loyal to the Southern Baptist Convention and are strong supporters of the Cooperative Program."

"The CBF is a different story," Chapman continued. "The CBF is competing against our missions organizations for gifts and manpower while claiming to be loyal Southern Baptists."

Toalston writes for BP.

ed of the biblical comment about Barnabas: "For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord" (Acts 11:24).

I know any man will be more popular as Evangelism Department director than he will as editor of our state paper. Man, we need you and this news source.

Brother, continue to inform us about what is happening and why it is happening that we may adjust our lives and walk in the light of our precious Lord Jesus.

Pray for us at Christ Church as we pray for you.

L.D. (Joe) Brown, pastor
Christ Church
Greenwood

Cancel subscription

Editor:

Please cancel my subscription to the Baptist Record. Your article ("Baptists to pray for

Clinton, work with him...." Baptist Record, Nov. 12) defending support for President-elect Clinton by prayer was correct and in accordance with our duty to Christ and our nation.

However, I cannot agree with the headline article's tone or the capsule referring to Gov. Clinton's pastor, Rex Horne Jr.'s statement. There is a manual or pamphlet describing how to pastor a president and how we as Christians should conduct ourselves; it is called the Bible.

I feel that Southern Baptists have forgotten 1 Corinthians 5:10-12, Paul's call to point out error among ourselves. The passivity and pleasure associated with Southern Baptists' realizing "one of our own" has risen to high office while boldly displaying a mocking attitude toward what God's Word says, leaves me greatly disturbed.

Lee Rogers
Gulfport

This Christmas, help build up the body.



David Groseclose is declaring the hope of Christ in the land where Jesus himself walked. He's active in The Haifa Baptist Center, which he says is "perhaps the fastest-growing Baptist church in the country right now."

David is awaiting the day his church can find a lot on which to build, with funds already set aside from the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

Pray that David's church members will find land to build a church. Pray, too, that Baptist churches in Israel will continue to declare hope for others as they grow spiritually and numerically. And pray that more churches will be started in Western Galilee.



Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
National Goal: \$84 million

Broadmoor Baptist Church

Celebrates

40 Years of Christian Ministry

Homecoming Fellowship Supper

(five dollars per person)

Saturday, January 2, 1993

5:00 p.m. -- Worship Service to follow

and

Bible Study and Morning Worship
Sunday, January 3, 1993

Former Members RSVP
787 East Northside Drive
Jackson, Mississippi
(601-366-8433)

Dr. Jim Futral, Pastor



HOUSE TOPS

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light: and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

November 26, 1992

HOUSE TOPS is a supplement to the Baptist Record and is produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

PRAYERGRAM

Nov. 26-Dec. 10, 1992

PRAY for the work in Equatorial Guinea (West Africa), a small country where Baptist work is in the beginning stages, and the laborers are few. There is a possibility that the European Baptist Federation will send two or three couples to Equatorial Guinea to join the three Southern Baptist missionaries working there. Pray for Jess and Peggy Thompson, Jerry and Jo Meeks and Larry and Lucy Driggers, as well as for the national Christians.

PRAY for the Baptist Conference Center in Ajloun, Jordan, and for the Charles Brownings. Pray for the volunteer workers who are repairing buildings that were damaged by war.

PRAY for the people who are in countries of the world where their lives and property are threatened by political upheaval and civil war. Pray especially for the Christians in Liberia and Angola in West Africa.

PRAY for Bryan Wittekind, pastor of the Unity Baptist Church in Cedar Falls, Iowa. Currently the church is in rented facilities. They need to build but cannot afford it. Pray for God's guidance and funds to build. Pray for growth in the membership. This is a pioneer area and most of the members are not from a Southern Baptist background.

PRAY for Mary Carr, a US-2 missionary, serving in weekday ministries at East Seventh Baptist Church in New York City. Pray for two volunteers to work in the tutoring program. Twenty-five children are enrolled, and more volunteers are desperately needed.

PRAY for the Mississippi River Ministry as this important evangelistic outreach is in the planning stages.

PRAY individually, as families and as churches for the Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions. Pray that people of Mississippi will open their hearts and their billfolds to reach out to a lost world. A fact that should call us to even more generous giving this year is this: only 1 percent of our Southern Baptist money goes to the 1/4 of the world where there is no Light.

PRAY for Wayne Edwards as he begins his work as Director of Mission in Lauderdale Association. Pray for his wife, Patti, and their two children, Scott, 13 and Elizabeth, 9. Remember all the Directors of Missions in our state.

THANK GOD for a good Mississippi Baptist Convention, held Nov. 10 and 11, 1992. PRAY that nothing will hinder unity and cooperation as we work together to help bring our state and the world to Jesus.

Prayer Pins available50¢ each.

Mississippi Baptist Prayerline
969-PRAY

HT



A PLAN-AHEAD OVERVIEW OF 1993 YOUTH MUSIC MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

In the hands of your church leaders is a booklet that outlines all 1993 youth music ministry opportunities afforded through your Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Church Music Department.

The earliest program listed in the booklet is the area conducting/instrumental/vocal festival taking place on Jan. 18 in three locations. All are at 5:30 p.m. and they will be at North Oxford Church, Oxford; Temple Church, Hattiesburg; and Woodland Hills Church, Jackson. Registration deadline for this event is Jan. 11.

The state youth choir festival is Feb. 5-6 at Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, for grades 7-12. Loyd Hawthorne of Hardin Simmons University in Texas will be choral conductor. Registration is necessary by Jan. 25.

Feb. 8-22 will be auditions for the Mississippi Baptist all-state youth choir, grades 9-12. Auditions will be in eight locations. Rehearsal camp for the choir will be July 14-17 at William Carey College, Hattiesburg. The tour itself will be July 17-20. Cost is approximate-

ly \$200 per choir member. Churches and associations are requested to establish scholarships for participants.

The state youth four part festival is Feb. 27 at First Church, Clinton. The four parts are conducting, instrumental, keyboard, and vocal. Invitations to participate in these festivals are based on ratings received in the area festivals in January.

"Heartsong '93," is the name for the summer youth music program at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Pass Christian, June 28-July 2, for grades 7-12.

And the state preschool/children/youth music leadership clinic is Aug. 27-28, at Alta Woods Church, Jackson. Separate sessions will be held for leaders of each age group, three years through 6th grade, with a special session for youth choir leaders.

Check with your church office for a copy of the overview booklet. In it are registration forms for each event.

HT

African-American Retreat at Camp Garaywa

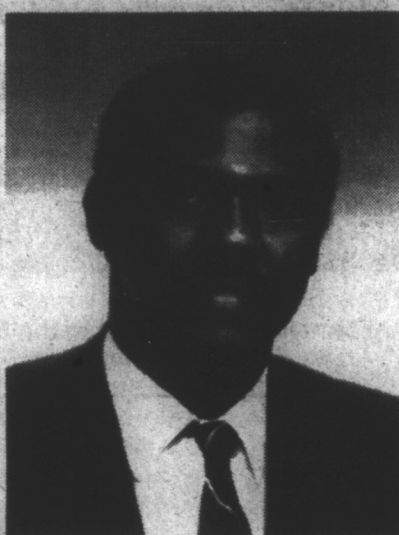
Jay Wells, Everett Robertson, Willie Scott, Eddie Jones and Louis Lamar will be featured speakers at the Pastoral and Church Leadership Retreat at Camp Garaywa on December 4 - 5, 1992. The retreat is co sponsored by the Black Church Extension Division, Home Mission Board and Cooperative Missions Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Using the theme "We Must Make Christ Known," 2 Corinthians 5:17-18, two persons from the Sunday School Board in Nashville will conduct a workshop experience. Jay Wells, Manager of Black Church Development, and Everett Robertson, drama specialist, will suggest ways through Sunday School and drama to reach persons with the Good News.

Willie Scott, Pastor of Providence Baptist Church in Marietta, Ga., will be the worship leader.

Louis Lamar and Eddie Jones will share their experiences in Africa. Both of these persons have just returned from a Preaching Tour in Zimbabwe. Lamar is pastor of the Mt. Sinai Church in Tupelo and Jones is the pastor of the Victory Temple Church in Greenville.

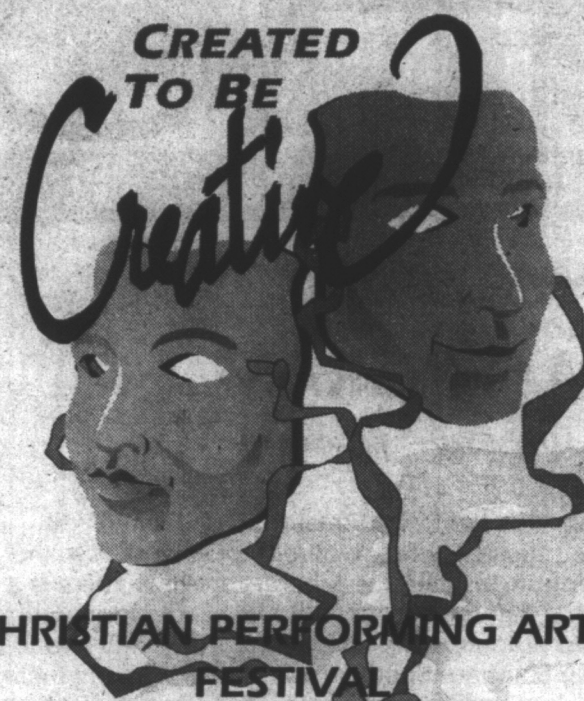
Persons interested in attending should contact the Cooperative Missions Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at 968-3800.



Jay Wells, Manager, Black Church Development Section, BSSB, Nashville, Tenn.



Everett Robertson, Senior Drama Specialist, Church Recreation Department, BSSB, Nashville, Tenn.



CHRISTIAN PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL

March 5-6, 1993

Alta Woods Baptist Church,
Jackson, Miss.

Training for the Ministry of Drama,
Clowning and Puppetry

Featuring Storyteller Bob Neill and
"Branches" of FBC, Atlanta

For more details contact Robin Nichols at 968-3800

Marching off the map. Exploring Your Potential



WANDA
GAYLE GEDDIE

- Concert Soloist
- Music theater performer
- Fashion model
- Popular spokesmodel for television talk and news shows
- 1984 Miss Mississippi, Third alternate Miss America
- Strong Christian testimony

s t a t e w i d e SINGLE ADULT RALLY

February 5, 1993
8:00 P.M.

FBC, Jackson, Miss.



HAROLD
IVAN SMITH

- American's foremost authority on single adults
- Popular speaker on and for single adults
- President of consulting firm dealing with the single adult in the workplace
- Author of 30 books for and about single adults
- Producer of video tape series for single adults
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PRESCHOOL FOCUS: Preparing Preschoolers for worship

by Linda Reeves

Consultant, Sunday School Department, MBCB

Young children are forming the habits and attitudes which they will carry with them to adulthood. Regular worship service attendance is a habit we want to encourage. You can help your child grow spiritually by introducing him to the warmth, love, and joy Christians experience during the worship service. We hope the following suggestions will be helpful as you introduce your child to the worship service experience.

1. Take your child to the rest room just before the service begins.
2. Sit where your older preschooler can see, near the front of the sanctuary or in the balcony.
3. Help your child hold the hymnal and turn to the suggested hymns. Follow the print with your finger as you sing.
4. Find each scripture reference in your Bible when scriptures are read aloud. Encourage your preschooler to hold the Bible during the scripture readings.
5. Give your child an opportunity to earn money which she can put in the offering plate.
6. Consider bringing a quiet activity for your older preschooler to use during the sermon (pad and pencil or favorite book).
7. Expect your child to wiggle. It is difficult for his body to be still.
8. Enjoy the service yourself. Your child catches attitudes from you.
9. Ask your preschooler questions after the worship service. "Which part of the service did you like best?" "Were we quiet so that the people around us could listen?" "Is there something we can do to make next Sunday happier?"

How can parents help their preschoolers get ready for worship services? How can pastors, church leaders, or church members welcome, and nurture young children who attend worship services? Answers to these and other questions can be found in **When I Go To Church An Introduction to Congregational Worship for Preschoolers** by Kay Vandevier Henry.

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AREA	LOCATION	FESTIVAL LEADER	PHONE C=Church H=Home
Thursday, January 28, 1993, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.			
Area 2	FBC, Tupelo, Church and Jefferson Street	Dale Owens	C 842-1327
Area 4	Fairview Baptist Church, 201 Airline Road, Columbus	Slater Murphy	C 328-2924
Area 7	FBC, McComb, 1700 Delaware Avenue	Mark Moore	C 684-2971
		Carol Watts	C 684-2971
Area 8	FBC, Laurel, 605 Fifth Street	Richard Green	C 649-5711
		Michaelle Harrison	C 649-5711
Friday, January 29, 1993, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.			
Area 8	Temple Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, 1508 Hardy Street	Paul Koonce	C 544-1794
Area 9	FBC, Gulfport, 2120 14th Street	Tammy Turnage	H 864 8707
		Robin Young	H 863-8199
Saturday, January 30, 1993, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.			
Area 5	FBC, Jackson, 400 block North State Street	Glenn Crosthwait	C 949-1922
		Sheri Adamson	H 825-9098
Area 6	Poplar Springs Drive Baptist, Meridian, 4032 Poplar Springs Drive	Harry Tillery	C 485-5106
Area 1	Colonial Hills Baptist, Southaven, 2101 Colonial Hills Drive	Elizabeth Cothorn	H 781-2582
Area 5	Bowmar Avenue Baptist, Vicksburg, 718 Bowmar Avenue	Dan Guest	C 636-2596
Area 3	FBC, Cleveland, 101 North Bolivar Street	Darryl Prater	C 843-2701

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Guidelines are included in the Area Keyboard Festivals Handbook 1993. These handbooks have been mailed to Mississippi Baptist Church organists, church pianists and ministers of music. To obtain the handbook or information, contact Dot Pray, Contract Consultant/Keyboard Festival Coordinator, by writing Church Music Department, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205; or calling 968-3800.

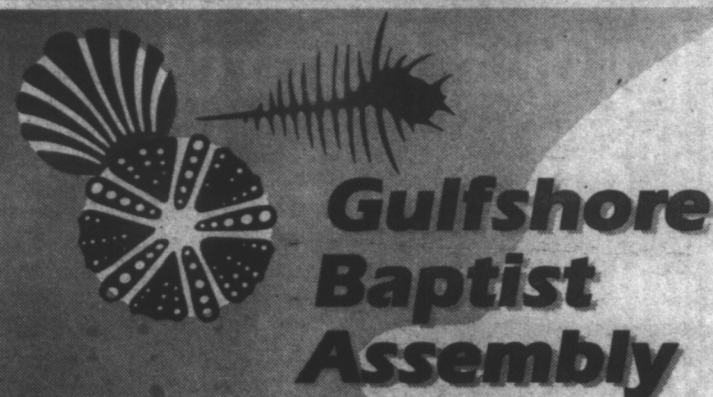
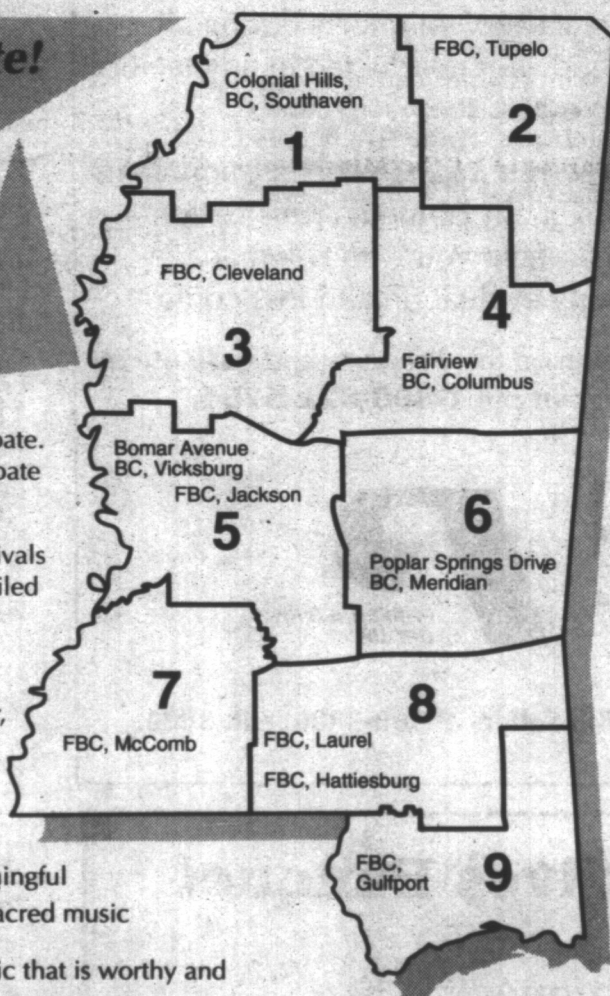
Objectives

Spiritually: to lead young people to a more meaningful relationship with the Lord through the playing of sacred music

Musically: to encourage the use of keyboard music that is worthy and acceptable for the worship and praise of Christ

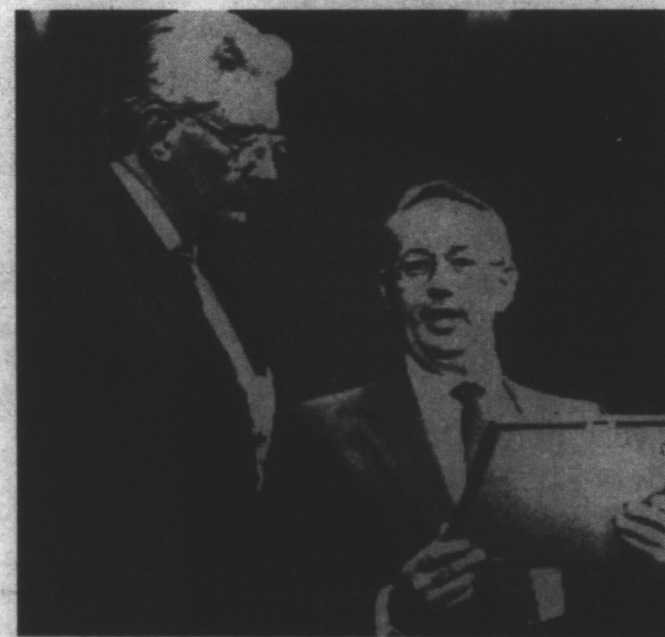
Generally: to acquaint our Baptist churches with potential for enlisting your people to develop and use their talents in the ministry of the local church

We request that registrations be received by the Church Music Music Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board by **Monday, December 21, 1992.**



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The 1993 Gulfshore Baptist Assembly schedule will be in your pastors' hands before Christmas. Ask him for a look at it so that you can plan your vacation time around one of the many training events and conferences offered there. There are some changes in policies as well as in costs for such as lodging. Remember that reservations are not accepted until March 1 for those in state and after April 15 for those out of state.



George Knight of Seminary Extension, right, presents a plaque to Ray Grissett, director of the Cooperative Missions Department, MBCB. The plaque is in commemoration of the 1951 beginning of seminary extension classes in the SBC.

They were first held in the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board building by R. Lee Gallman. Currently, there are 30 centers in the state. The presentation was made during a session of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Mississippi leadership leaves big mark on work of Medical-Dental Fellowship

By William H. Perkins Jr.

First in a series

The importance of medical and dental missions work around the world was underscored by Mississippians in attendance at the national meeting of the Baptist Medical-Dental Fellowship (BMDF) Nov. 12-15 at the Peabody Hotel in Memphis.

John J. McGraw, an orthopaedic surgeon from Laurel, moved up from the office of president-elect to president of the nationwide fellowship — the first Mississippian to serve in that post. McGraw also served as program chairman for the meeting this year.

Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, delivered a keynote address entitled, "Fruit of the Spirit."

Causey was followed by W.W. Walley, a Waynesboro physician who is in his second term as president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. Walley, author of *Diary of a Country Doctor*, which details his life as a Christian doctor in a small town, spoke on "Fruits of the Spirit in the Life of a Country Doctor."

Larry Kennedy, vice-president and dean of the Cooper School of Missions and Biblical Studies at William Carey College in Hattiesburg, delivered an evening session message on spiritual growth. Harry Lucenay, former pastor of Temple Church, Hattiesburg, and presently

pastor of First Church, San Antonio, Texas, led a session with his wife, Nancy, entitled, "Stress in the Doctor's Home."

Frank Pollard, pastor of First Church, Jackson, supplied Bible study for each session. Richard Green, minister of music at First Church, Laurel, was the music director, while Jackson businessman Bill Clark served as pianist.

Other Mississippians on the program included "The Doctors Four," a singing quartet of physicians from Laurel; the William Carey College Chorale and Ensemble; and Leonard Day, artist-in-residence at William Carey College.

The BMDF organization is geared to provide professional fellowship, spiritual growth, and mission support, according to McGraw. Was the meeting successful in meeting those goals?

"Absolutely," said McGraw.

"Some of our fellowship times didn't break up until midnight, and Dr. and Mrs. Lucenay did an excellent job. Dr. Pollard and Dr. Kennedy led us in spiritual growth, and the missionaries told us how we can support them on the mission field. There was also more music this time," he said.

Breakout sessions were also conducted to discuss missions issues, McGraw added, and the feedback on those sessions was positive.

Medical and dental missionaries who spoke at the meeting included

Sam Cannata (Ethiopia), Barry Glenn (Barbados), Vincent Waite (Ghana), Rebekah Naylor (India), Oliver Gilliland (Indonesia), Bill Swan (Macao), and Harold Mitchell (Rwanda).

Medical and dental missionaries present at the meeting but not speaking on the program included Orby Butcher (Thailand), John Gibson III (Thailand), Earl Hewitt (Ghana), Donald McLaren (Nigeria), Martha Myers (Yemen), and Eugene Ruble (Indonesia).

Other speakers at the meeting included Van Williams, director of medical services at the Foreign Mission Board; Henry Love, BMDF executive director; Bill Snowden, volunteer missions dentist from Winchester, Ky.; James Williams, president of the SBC Brotherhood Commission; Bennie Norton, volunteer missions dentist from Smyrna, Ga.; and Merrill Winchester, a family physician from Whitley City, Ky., who completed his term as BMDF president.

"We are in a recruiting mode for doctors and dentists who want to do missions work," McGraw said.

The next national BMDF meeting is scheduled for Nov. 11-14, 1993, in Birmingham, Ala. Medical and dental personnel interested in more information on missions and the BMDF organization should contact the Brotherhood Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800.

Next week: Opportunities for medical and dental missions are opening up around the world as never before. Discover how Southern Baptists are responding to these evangelistic challenges.

Thursday, November 26, 1992

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5



Missionary dentist Harold Mitchell (second from left) makes a point during a panel discussion at the Baptist Medical-Dental Fellowship (BMDF) national meeting, held Nov. 12-15 at the Peabody Hotel in Memphis. Mitchell, who is stationed in Rwanda, was joined on the panel by missionary physicians, from left, Rebekah Naylor (India), Sam Cannata (Ethiopia), Bill Swan (Macao), and incoming BMDF president John McGraw. McGraw, an orthopaedic surgeon from Laurel, is the first Mississippian to serve as president of the national fellowship. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

Nurses issue call to service; Miss. tops BNF attendance

By William H. Perkins Jr.

First in a series

Involvement in the budding Mississippi River Ministry will provide Christian nurses from all across the country with opportunities to combine their professional skill and spiritual calling, according to the Mississippian serving as president of the national Baptist Nursing Fellowship (BNF).

Debbie Smith of Tupelo told the nurses gathered Nov. 12-15 at the Peabody Hotel in Memphis for the 10th annual BNF meeting that nurses have a special ministry in God's plan for the world.

"This organization's roots are embedded in missionary nurses. We need to become prayer warriors for each other," she said.

The Mississippi River Ministry is a coordinated evangelistic effort by Southern Baptist Convention agencies, state Baptist conventions, local Baptist associations, and other organizations to reach impoverished residents of river counties by addressing both their physical and spiritual needs. Approximately 125 nurses

attended the meeting. About 35 Mississippians were present — three times more than any other state, according to Ashley McCaleb, BNF liaison in the Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Student nurses from Mississippi College made up a significant portion of the

Mississippi total, she added.

June Whitlow, national BNF executive director-treasurer, commended the nurses for bringing Christianity into their workplace.

"I am grateful to you for your abilities and skills. You are doing a lot of things that don't get recorded," she said.

The next BNF annual meeting is scheduled for Nov. 11-14, 1993, in Birmingham, Ala.

Persons interested in the work of BNF can contact the WMU of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800.

Next week: Whitlow offers a glimpse of 21st century nursing missions and discusses ways individual nurses can support BNF.

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Names in the news



Three generations of active deacons are serving at First Church, Nesbit. They are Ray Garner, deacon for 33 years; his son, Harry Garner, deacon for 18 years; and grandson Kevin Garner, who was elected deacon on Sept. 27, 1992. Mike Montalbano is pastor and David Holmes is music and youth director.

Tulon Anglin, a pastor for 40 years, died Sept. 18. He was a member of First Church, Verona. He is survived by his wife, Hazel Anglin, and two sons, Bob Anglin and Larry Anglin. The funeral was held at McGrath-Raspberry Funeral Home with burial in the Lee Memorial Park.

Charlotte Tyler Durst, 47, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Tyler, died Oct. 18 after a lengthy battle with cancer. She had been a teacher at Jett Elementary School in Vicksburg. She is survived by her husband, Brian P. Durst Jr. and two children. Her father has been pastor in Lorman for 21 years.

Robert A. Baker, renowned as one of the leading church historians in the Southern Baptist Con-

vention, died at his home in Fort Worth, Texas, Nov. 15. He was 81. Baker joined the faculty of Southwestern Seminary in 1942 and taught in the school's Church History Department until his retirement in 1981. He is survived by his wife Fredona M. Baker; a daughter, and a son.

Mary Libby Payne, professor at Mississippi College School of Law, has been named to the National Board of Directors of the Christian Legal Society. Payne is the advisor for the CLS chapter at Mississippi College.



Payne

Southern Baptist missionary Karl Wallace of Jackson has joined the Foreign Mission Board's missionary enlistment department for a few months. Between now and April, Wallace will travel throughout Mississippi urging pastors to consider becoming foreign missionaries. He and his wife, Peggy, are missionaries to Peru. Wallace's furlough address is 715 E. Northside Dr., Jackson, MS 39206, phone (601) 362-9083.



Wallace

Charles Everitt of Effingham, Ill., will be recognized Dec. 6 at Mullen Church, Montrose, Ill., for his 50 years in the ministry. A native of Pelahatchie, Everitt spent 23 years of his ministry years in his home state, serving as director of missions in four associations and pastor of eight churches across the state. He and his wife Mildred, a native of Philadelphia, may be contacted at 700 W. Fayette Ave., Effingham, IL 62401.



Everitt

* JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (BP) — Tim Palmer has been named managing editor of the Missouri Baptist newsjournal *Word & Way*. He has been assistant to the vice president for academic affairs at Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo., the past year and has taught a reporting course in the department of communications.

Just for the Record

Antioch Church, Columbus, will present Quinton Mills in concert Dec. 2 at 7 p.m. The concert is held in celebration of the dedication of the church's new building. Edward Knox is pastor.

William Carey College's Winters School of Music will present the Madrigal Dinner, Dec. 3-5, 7 p.m., in Thomas Hall. Festivities will include: lighting of the yule log and performances by dancers, acrobats, jongleurs, and the Madrigal Singers. Reservations are required. Tickets are \$15. For more information, contact the Winters School of Music, (601) 582-6175.

James D. Longmire Jr. of Clinton will be presented in graduate voice recital at Mississippi College Dec. 1 in Aven Auditorium at 8:15 p.m. He is the son of James D. Longmire Sr. and a member of Mt. Pleasant Church, Gloster.

Revival Dates

Calvary, Booneville: Nov. 29-Dec. 2; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Mickey Trammel, pastor, evangelist; Charlie Cooper, Rienzi, music.

Shady Grove First Church, Heidelberg: Dec. 2; 7 p.m.; Danny Lanier, evangelist and singer; Sharber Smith, pastor.

Carmel, Monticello: Nov. 29-Dec. 2; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., Thanksgiving dinner in fellowship hall, noon; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Benny Jackson, Germantown, Tenn., and Hubert Greer, Wesson, evangelists; Robert E. Jones, interim pastor.

Staff Changes

T. Scott Vaughn has accepted the call as pastor of Shiloh Church, Louisville. He goes to Shiloh from First Church, Abita Springs, La. Scott is a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi and New Orleans Seminary.

Fairview Church, Indianola, has called Butch Carpenter as minister of youth effective Nov. 1. His previous place of service was Lakeview Church, Leland. A native of Sidon, he received his education at Mississippi Delta Community College.

Stephen V. Reynolds is the new minister of music and youth at Calvary Church, Columbus. He previously served Silom Church, West Point. He is a student at Mississippi State University.



Reynolds

Horace Ross retired from Grace Church in Warren Association on Oct. 25. He is now available for pulpit supply and revivals. Ross can be reached by phone at First Church, Ridgeland (856-6139) or his home (856-0897).

Emmanuel Church, Grenada, called Eugene Heimbach, a native of Hernando, as minister of education and youth on Nov. 1. He is a graduate of Mississippi State University and is now attending New Orleans Seminary.

His previous church was Valley View Church in Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Thomas McCormick has accepted the call as pastor of Oral Church in Lamar Association effective Nov. 11. He is a graduate of William Carey College. McCormick is a native of New Orleans.

Second Church, Greenville, has called James Sanders as pastor. A graduate of Florida Theological College, William Carey College, and New Orleans Seminary, Sanders goes to Greenville from West McComb Church, McComb.

Calvary Church, Pascagoula, has called Craig Edwards of Pascagoula as minister of music, effective Nov. 1. He previously served Arlington Heights Church.

Rick Munn is the new minister of music and senior adults at Hazlehurst Church. For the past 15 years, he has served as minister of music at First Church, Grenada. He also has been BSU director at Holmes Community College, Grenada campus.

Correction

Ed Holmes of Gulf Coast Association was inadvertently left off a cutline listing MBCB Executive Committee members. Holmes, chief of chaplains for VA Medical Center in Biloxi, was elected second vice president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

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Uniform Faithfulness under fire



By Margaret Rogers
Jeremiah 1:1-10; 8:22-9:3; 20:7-13

More is known about Jeremiah than any other prophet in the Old Testament, as there are many personal references in his book. His name means "Jehovah hurls" or "exalted of Jehovah." He is often described as the "weeping prophet;" in fact, his name has provided a word in the English language, "jeremiad" which means "a tale of woe" or sorrow or disappointment. Having been reared in a priestly family, the prophet had the advantage of a cultivated, godly home in a quiet, secluded community, Anathoth, a few miles from Jerusalem.

Jeremiah was called to the office as a prophet while a young man, approximately 20 years of age. He came to the prophetic office when Josiah was king. It was a period when the forces of Egypt and the forces of Assyria were slugging it out for supremacy. Actually, the forces of Babylonia were the winners since Egypt and Assyria merely weakened each other. Babylonia came in and picked up the pieces. The nation of Judah was having its last chance before God for its idolatry, apostasy, bloodshed, and evil.

Jeremiah came on this scene with his message. Jeremiah was one of the chief figures of his time, towering above the men in that period. He was a patriot, prophet, statesman, wise counselor of kings, and a courageous foe of wickedness and sin. By nature, he was sensitive, timid, and melancholy. He had no home nor family, and much of the time, he had no friends.

The book of Jeremiah is a large one with 52 chapters. As far as is known, Jeremiah was the only prophet who had a personal secretary.

Jeremiah's call (Jer. 1:9-10). Jeremiah's prophetic ministry began in 626 B.C. and ended sometime after 585 B.C. He was always conscious of his call from God to be a prophet. God's commission for Jeremiah was planned even before his birth. God touched his mouth and enabled him to speak as one with an intimate acquaintance with his God. God not only placed knowledge in Jeremiah's mind, but he also placed words in his mouth. He was given a difficult task, but his appointment was made with God's authority. Jeremiah was to attempt to reform the nation, to root out and destroy idolatry and other evils among the people. Those who persisted in their sins would be destroyed, but those who repented and turned to God would be built and planted.

Jeremiah's complaint and compulsion (20:7-11). Jeremiah's faithful and zealous discharge of his duties brought ridicule and persecution to him. His message of denunciation was not received without protest. Judah was practicing a formal kind of religion, but God did not want formality; he wanted obedience. Therefore, the prophet had to voice God's protest against form without content, ritual without true religion, and offering without obedience. When Jeremiah would have fled from his thankless task, he did not. God's call and presence were so real and his commitment so intense that they were like a fire in his bones. He trusted God and he knew that God would vindicate him before his enemies.

Jeremiah's message of punishment, gloom, and doom was also a message of hope and restoration. He spoke of a day when there would be a new covenant, one of the heart. Wicked hearts would be changed, and God would make a new covenant with his people. God would put his law within them and would write it in their hearts.

The word of the Lord had become a reproach and derision to Jeremiah's audience. Although Jeremiah did not want to be responsible for the message, he proclaimed it faithfully. Jeremiah's story teaches Christians many truths: to express one's feelings to God boldly; to realize that serving God can be costly; to perform tasks for God faithfully; and that God's presence and power are with those who obey him and who are steadfast in loyalty to him.

Rogers is a member of Salem, Church, Collins.

Bible Book God's plan for Israel



By R. David Raddin
Romans 11:11-12, 15-26a

God's plan for Israel was centered in Jesus Christ. The Jews rejected Jesus as Savior and Lord. Paul writes of Israel's future. He describes those who believe in Christ and those who do not. Through Israel's example, we are reminded that our future depends on our relationship to the Lord.

Blessing through Israel's rejection of the gospel (11:11). In verses 1-10, Paul deals with the question of the possibility of God's rejection of his people because they had rejected him. "Did God reject his people? By no means! I am an Israelite myself, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin" (v. 1). Paul answers the question with the fact that a remnant of the Jews, including himself, are accepted by God through their faith in Jesus.

Verse 11 repeats the basic question posed in verse 1. "Again I ask: Did they stumble so as to fall beyond recovery? Not at all! Rather, because of their transgression, salvation has come to the Gentiles to make Israel envious" (v. 11). Two main points of the rest of the chapter are revealed. First, because of Israel's transgression, salvation has come to the Gentiles. Second, through the salvation of the Gentiles, Israel will be made envious.

Blessing through Israel's acceptance of the gospel (11:12,15-16). "But if their transgression means riches for the world, and their loss means riches for the Gentiles, how much greater riches will their fullness bring!" (v. 12). "Riches" is used here in a spiritual sense. J.W. MacGorman says, "Through the inclusion of Israel, great blessings will come to all. Not only was the rejection of Israel partial but also it was temporary" (Romans: Everyman's Gospel, p. 120). The Gentiles who believe find spiritual riches in Christ. Paul's desire that Israel turn to Christ seems to be at the heart of verse 12.

"For if their rejection is the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead? If the part of the dough offered as first fruits is holy, then the whole batch is holy; if the root is holy, so are the branches" (vv. 15-16). Some interpreters believe that "life from the dead" refers to the resurrection of the dead at the end of time. The phrase seems to indicate the rejoicing that will come when Israel, who Paul sees in a state of spiritual death, turns to Jesus. The father in the parable of the prodigal son says on his son's return, "This my son was dead, and is alive again" (Luke 15:24).

A caution to Gentile believers (11:17-24). By using the allegory of the olive tree, Paul cautions Gentile believers against boasting over the Jews. He reminds the Gentiles that all of them who believe are "wild olive shoots" and "have been grafted in among the others" (v. 17). Paul tells them that the reason the natural branches, that is the Jews, were broken off was because of their unbelief; the grafted-in branches are there through faith (vv. 19-22). He continues his caution by writing that Israel's unbelief is all that prevents God from restoring them to himself (vv. 23-24).

Israel in God's plan (11: 25-26a). "I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved...." (vv. 25-26a). Scholars differ widely in their interpretation of these verses. The New Testament as a whole refutes those who believe that everyone, regardless of his or her relationship to the Lord, will be saved. On the contrary, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" (Acts 2:21). Will you call on the name of the Lord and be saved by believing in Jesus as your Lord and Savior?

Raddin is pastor, First Church, Yazoo City.

Life and Work Teach the truth



By Milton Burd
Titus 1:1-3, 5, 9-11, 13-16

We look to the small book of Titus for the final unit on "Equipping Believers For Breakthrough." The book of Titus is an example of involvement. Paul challenged Titus and the Christians of Crete to teach the truth and live by grace.

Timothy and Titus were contemporaries. While Timothy served in Ephesus, Titus was doing the same on the island of Crete. Titus was a Greek believer (Gal. 2:3) who had served Paul well on special assignments to the church in Corinth (2 Cor. 7-8). Titus was another "son in the faith" (Titus 1:4), as was Timothy. Paul had been with Titus on Crete and had left him to serve the churches and deal with existing problems there. Let's look at Chapter 1.

Paul's greeting and identification (vv. 1-3). Paul begins with a rather lengthy greeting to Titus stressing the importance of the Word of God. He identifies himself as a servant and an apostle. He was a slave of God and a messenger sent on a special commission by Jesus Christ. The purpose of his ministry was to share the faith of the Word of God. The truth was very critical to the Christians (the elect) of Crete in light of false teachers and their distortion of the truth. Knowing truth leads to godliness; godliness develops character and conduct.

Verse 2 tells us that this faith in Jesus Christ not only saves us today and makes our life godly, but it also gives us hope for the future. We have assurance for the future because of God's promises — we know God cannot lie. He has always kept his promises. We are privileged to have eternal life now, but when Jesus returns, we will experience it in a much greater way.

Paul relates in verse 3 that God reveals his message through preaching. He had divine orders to preach the truth. It was a command of God. All of Paul's ministry revolved around the Word of God.

Titus's assignment in Crete (v. 5). Paul gets down to business in this verse. He explains the reason for leaving Titus in Crete. His task was to set straight the things left unfinished, and to appoint elders (leaders) to teach the truth. Paul usually spent enough time in the churches he had established to ordain elders and leave things in good order (Acts 14:23). He was not able to stay long enough in Crete to accomplish this, so Titus inherited the responsibility. Paul asked him to straighten out the things left undone. This probably meant dealing with the false teachers in Crete. His second assignment was to appoint leaders in every town who would faithfully teach the Word of God.

An expectation of elders (v. 9). Those who were to be appointed as leaders must faithfully encourage others by sound doctrine and expose and convict those who oppose it. Only those with a strong commitment should be chosen to handle the Word of God.

The disruptive influence of false teachers (vv. 10-11). Titus faced an enemy similar to that described in 1 Timothy. Paul identified them as rebellious, mere talkers (hot air, no actions), and deceivers with their false doctrine, especially those of the circumcision group (those who taught Jewish legalism).

A call for decisive action (vv. 13-14). Paul continued his discussion of false teachers who were distorting the truth. He told Titus to "rebuken them sharply so that they may become sound in the faith." Paul's purpose for this rebuke was redemptive in nature. (This same advice was given to Timothy. In fact, Titus is a condensed version of 1 Timothy.) Paul always held out hope that some could be won over by the truth, or at least that they would pay no attention to those who reject the truth.

A call for living the truth (vv. 15-16). Paul called for right living. Christians are to support the message of truth with a lifestyle that confirms faith and knowledge of God. The mind and conscience of the false teachers had been corrupted. They claim to know God, but their lifestyle does not reflect it. No one can live a double life. No man can serve two masters. The church today needs committed Christians whose words and deeds reflect Jesus Christ. What a challenge for all of us.

Burd is minister of education, First Church, Cleveland.

State conventions struggle with giving plans, abortion

By Herb Hollinger

NASHVILLE (BP) — The diversity — and unity — of Southern Baptists were apparent at annual meetings of the various state conventions and fellowships as divergent approaches to mission giving were approved while most voiced opposition to homosexuality and abortion.

And although most presidents of the 39 state conventions and fellowships are pastors, seven laymen were elected, one African-American, one Hispanic, one director of associational missions and one bivocational pastor.

Somewhat surprising, only Minnesota-Wisconsin and Arizona conventions voted any action regarded as "anti-Masonic" and Louisiana and Arizona reported concerns with the recent action of the SBC Radio-TV Commission's ACTS sharing a network with the VISION network.

Only Louisiana and Illinois reported action relative to the AIDS/HIV controversy while about half voted to pray for President-elect Bill Clinton though at odds with his stance on homosexuals and abortion.

Laymen were elected presidents in Florida, Iowa, Minnesota-Wisconsin, Hawaii, Arkansas, Virginia and Mississippi. An African-American in Pennsylvania/South Jersey, a Hispanic in Utah/Idaho, and a director of associational missions in Kentucky were elected presidents, and a native American in Oklahoma was elected vice president. Ohio elected a director of associational missions as president.

Far and away the most complex issue, however, was how state conventions would receive and disburse mission monies. At least 23 conventions voted no change in their percentage of Cooperative Program receipts channeled to Southern Baptist Convention ministries. Nine conventions increased, slightly, their percentage forwarded to the SBC but most were pioneer or smaller states.

Four conventions decreased their SBC percentages, although it is difficult to calculate because some take out preferred items before the distribution to the SBC, some include preferred items as part of the SBC percentage and one took a percentage from both the SBC and state CP for a pastoral aid item.

But the newest wrinkle came from Virginia where, for the first time, churches can choose one of three options for the state's "World Mission" causes including one which channels no funds to Southern Baptist Convention-related causes. One of the options is the traditional SBC Cooperative Program method and a second option is a combination of SBC and other ministries.

The third option would all go to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, an organization of moderate Southern Baptists who have started

their own mission program and who are critical of the current Southern Baptist Convention leadership.

Economic hard times were cited by Oklahoma in dropping 2.25% to 44.25% channeled to the SBC. In Florida, the 42.2% sent to the SBC is down from last year's 46% but a new pastoral aid preferred item of 5% is new in addition to 3.2% earmarked for the Church Annuity Plan.

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New England dropped .1% and Ohio decreased 1.5% in SBC percentages. In North Carolina, the SBC percentage was increased 3.83% but now includes funding the expanded Church Annuity Plan. North Carolina churches also have an option for the SBC portion in which only 12% would go to the SBC while the rest would go to scholarships for theological students in that state and special mission projects.

The most common thread of action among the conventions was opposition to abortion and the homosexual lifestyle, although several expressed concerns for the homosexual. Even though the actions appeared to speak to the recent election where Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton, a Southern Baptist, was elected on a platform supporting homosexual rights and the right to an abortion, South Carolina, North Carolina, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Arizona, Wyoming, Indiana, Utah-Idaho, and Arkansas all pledged to pray for him and other elected officials.

West Virginia voted to support action of the SBC last June in declaring churches sympathetic to homosexuality as "not in friendly cooperation" with the SBC. Louisiana messengers approved a change in the state constitution to make a church's position on homosexuality a test for convention participation, much like the SBC position.

California messengers referred a motion to their state executive board which called for the SBC Executive Committee to do business with another printer rather than the one who printed the Madonna "Sex" book.

Mississippi state paper editor Guy Henderson defended his paper's news coverage policy during a motion to deny the paper a half-million dollar Cooperative Program subsidy. The proposal would have given a portion of the money to the SBC Cooperative Program and \$315,000 to the Baptist Children's Village, a Mississippi child-care agency. The proposal failed 342-449.

Maryland/Delaware Baptists turned back an attempt to amend

the constitution to allow churches to be represented based on support of the convention through channels other than the Cooperative Program while Kentucky rejected a proposal which would have allowed churches to bypass national CP giving and still qualify for up to 10 KBC messengers.

Texas Baptists affirmed their continuing support for Baylor University and the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs despite appeals to discontinue their funding. Kentucky, likewise, turned back attempts to remove state funding of the BJC.

Missouri turned back attempts to identify the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and Baptist Fellowship of Missouri as "separate and distinctively different from the Southern Baptist and the Missouri Baptist conventions, autonomously governed and financed."

Florida's ethnic diversity was apparent when each convention session featured a period of intercessory prayer offered in English, Spanish, Creole (Indian), French-Creole (Haitian), and Chinese.

South Carolina signed an historic three-year partnership missions agreement with the predominantly black Baptist Educational and Missionary Convention. The partnership agreement concerns a three-year missions project with Baptists of Kenya, Africa.

In Alaska it was noted the state has recorded a 64% turnover in pastors the past two years.

Although most states did not have moderate- versus conservative-identified candidates, several were contested. Moderate candidates won in Texas, Tennessee, Florida, Alabama, Missouri, Virginia, and Maryland/Delaware. Conservative-backed candidates won in Georgia, Kentucky, and South Carolina.

Hollinger is director, BP. Polly House, editorial assistant in the Nashville office, contributed to this story.



Special chapel visitors

Jake Roudkovski, left, and Zhanna Nurmukhamedova, right, greet Convention Board employees after a recent weekly chapel service at the Baptist Building. As guest participants in the service, Roudkovski delivered a testimony on the opening of the gospel in areas of the former Soviet Union; Nurmukhamedova performed a traditional Kazakh anthem on the piano. Both are natives of Alma-Ata, Kazakhstan, and are now students at Blue Mountain College. (Photo by Shannon T. Simpson)

Missionary giving thanks for life she didn't expect to have

HENDERSON, Ky. (BP) — Kathy Lloyd and her family will celebrate a special Thanksgiving this year.

Seven months ago death loomed on the horizon, threatening to cut short the life of the 36-year-old wife, mother and missionary. Lloyd had a fast-growing bone cancer; doctors said she would die in six months to two years.

God, however, has been working a miracle, the former missionary to South Korea says. After a summer of "horrible" bone marrow transplants and a flood of prayers, tests show Lloyd's body is free of the bone cancer.

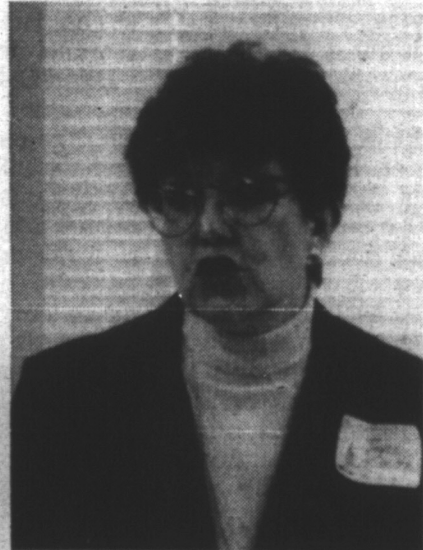
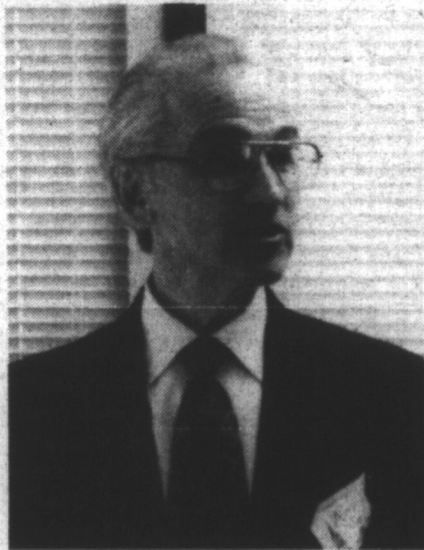
There still are some cancer cells in her blood but doctors regard those as "manageable."

"It's exciting to feel like I'm getting back to normal," said Lloyd, now 37, at her Henderson, Ky., home.

The heavy doses of chemotherapy she received in the transplants have left her with less energy than before, some nerve damage in her legs and some memory loss, but Lloyd said she feels good. "There is no pain." And she is active at church, in the community and at home.

This Thanksgiving, Lloyd is giving thanks for life itself, for the prayers she has received and for her family, including her "extended Christian family."

"I almost feel like the last year has been a dream," she stated. "It does not seem like it could have actually happened."



Norris Smith (left) and his wife, Joyce (right), of the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, were featured speakers at the Ministers' Wives Conference on Nov. 9 prior to the 157th session of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. The Smiths conducted simultaneous sessions on "Understanding Your Mate" and "Christian Assertiveness: Everyone Wins." (Photos by William H. Perkins Jr.)

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